

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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Poisons Buried 'By The Skid-Loads'

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READING—Former Cincinnati Milacron Chemical Inc. employees Monday warned state officials that a tour of the company's former property is not a reliable guide to locations and volume of industrial wastes buried there.

One employee, Ed Blankenship, told Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) officials Mike Dalton and Miles Datesman that Milacron Chemical used two bulldozers to handle the waste burial in the field on the southwest corner of the fenced company land. That is the part nearest community recreation areas.

BLANKENSHIP RECALLED preparing barrels of waste for burial as late as 1977. "They were taking them down there by the skid-loads," he told Dalton Monday. "I helped prepare the stuff..."

He said some of the drums have contents and dates of burial written on them.

Perry Wood and Herb Burns had similar recollections. They said

workers in the plant could back them up, but remain silent out of fear for their jobs.

Monday, one of those men said he saw dozens of drums "hailed back there" to a pit and waiting bulldozer for burial. Asking his name be left out of the paper, he guessed "at least 100" drums are buried in the field inside the fenced property. "I know they're buried there..."

Some waste came from hurried cleanups in anticipation of inspections by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Blankenship said.

OTHER WASTES, including "bad batches" of chemicals, were poured down city sewers "year in and year out," he added, but when Metropolitan Sewer District officials called to say they were coming out, fresh water was used to flush away the wastes.

Blankenship is the Milacron Chemical worker who went to

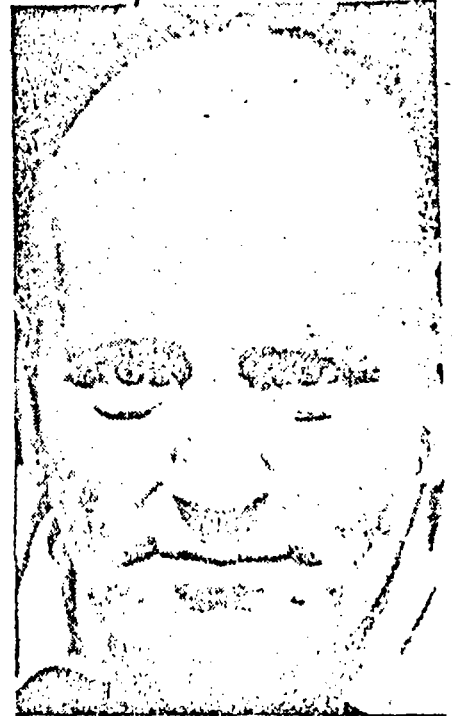
OSHA two years ago with complaints about health hazards in the buildings where dimethyltin-dichloride was made. The OSHA investigation led to citations and fines.

Dalton said Carstab Corp.'s Bob Neubert and a second Carstab man knew what was in "some of the drums" they led officials to on Monday's tour. Employees said they did not know the contents of other drums. Fewer than a dozen drums were buried, according to them, although other wastes were poured into pits or lagoons which have been covered with dirt.

OEPA has known about the pollutants leaking into the Mill Creek for some time, but has had more pressing problems, Dalton and others explained.

These challenges include containing chemical-polluted rainwater runoff from nearby Cincinnati Drum and Pristine, an industrial waste handling firm, they said.

—BEN L. KAUFMAN



ED BLANKENSHIP